(c) The Deposit Collectors have been demanding pay scales, allowances and other service conditions available to regular clerical employees of the banks. The demands have been considered by the Industrial Tribunal, Hyderabad, High Court of Andhra Pradesh and Supreme Court of India. Finally, the Supreme Court, *vide* its Judgement dated 13.2.2001 in Civil Appeal No. 3355 of 1998, has turned down their demands for absorption, same pay scales, allowances and other service conditions similar to those of the regular employees of the banks.

Slow Down in Growth Rate

*39. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a visible slow down in growth of agriculture, industry and services in 2000-2001 as compared with 1999-2000;

(b) whether this slow down is likely to persist in the current year; and

(c) if so, what measures have been adopted to reverse this trend?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the revised estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation the overall all sectoral growth rates in gross domestic product (GDP) at factor cost at constant prices for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in the Table below.

Estimates of GDP at factor cost by Economic Activity (at 1993-94 prices)

	1999-2000	2000-01(R)
I. Agriculture and allied sectors	**0.7**	**0.2**
II. Industry	**6.4**	**5.3**
1. Mining & quarrying	1.7	3.7
2. Manufacturing	6.8	5.6
3. Electricity, gas & water supply	5.2	4.7
4. Construction	8.1	5.5
III. Services	**9.6**	**7.7**
5. Trade, hotels, transport and communication	8.0	6.9
6. Financial Services*	10.1	9.1
7. Community, social & personal services	11.8	7.8
IV. Total GDP at factor cost	**6.4**	**5.2**

* includes financing, insurance real estate & business services;
R: Revised

(b) and (c) The trends in the overall growth in GDP during the current year would be available with the release of Quarterly GDP Estimates for the first quarter (April-June 2001) by end September, 2001. The measures to promote and achieve higher growth *inter alia* include speeding up of agricultural reforms; intensification of infrastructure investment, continued reform in the financial sector and capital markets, and deepening of structural reforms; human development through better educational opportunities and programmes of social security; improvement in the quality of Government expenditure; acceleration of privatisation process and

restructuring of public enterprises etc. Policy initiatives announced in the Budget are expected to have a favourable impact on growth during the current year.

Water Tanks in Karnataka

*40. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water tanks existed in the country, even before construction of dams across the rivers;

(b) whether many tanks in the country are aged about 100 to 500 years;

(c) whether it is a fact that in Karnataka, particularly in old Mysore parts, there are more than 100 year old tanks and farmers are raising crops by using tank water;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether non-desilting of tanks would affect the farmers; and

(f) if so, what are the remedies for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (f) Tanks have traditionally been an important source of water resources for various uses in India. Large number of tanks existed in the country even before construction of dams. Out of the total five lakh tanks in the country, Karnataka itself has more than 40,000 tanks. Most of the existing tanks in different parts of India including Karnataka have been inherited from ancestors and are many centuries old. Siltation of tanks is a continuous process which keeps occurring with the passage of time and due to neglect of its maintenance as well. Desiltation of tanks, if not done, could reduce their original storage capacity and in turn affect the water resource availability. Therefore, tanks need to be maintained properly and timely.